

Please amend the application as follows:

In The Specification

On page 1, please amend the Cross Reference to Related Applications section as follows:

- - This Patent Application is a Continuation of Application No. 10/097,762, filed March 14, 2002 which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/300,345, filed on June 22, 2001 and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/300,622, filed on June 25, 2001, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. - -

On page 6, paragraph starting at line 19 through page 7, line 6, please substitute the paragraph as follows:

- -Figs. 7A and 7B show a third embodiment of the ball valve unit of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 7A, the ball valve unit 100 includes similar components as the ball valve unit 50 of the first embodiment. Specifically, the ball valve unit 100 comprises, inter alia, ball valve 102, main section 104, handle 106, end cap 108, and flange 110. In addition, the ball valve unit 100 includes a drain valve 120. The drain valve 120 is used to drain the system in the vicinity of the ball valve 102. The drain valve 120 comprises a ball valve 122 that is actuated by a handle 124 +06. The ball valve 122 is housed in extension tubing 126 that is fitted to the main section 104 of the ball valve unit 100. A hose (not shown) can be attached to the extension tubing for draining the system. The extension tubing 126 preferably is made from cast or hot forged brass. - -

On page 7, lines 17-18, please delete the sentence that reads "Table 1 shows preferred dimensions for the ball valve units shown in Figs. 5A, 5B, 6A and 6B."